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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR
SUBJECT Slave Labor Camps in North European USSR

REPORT



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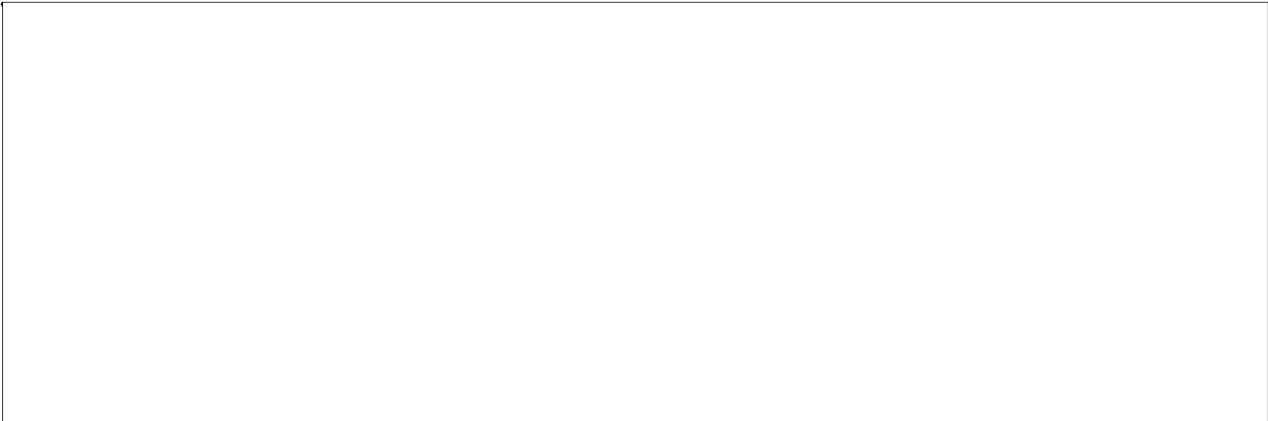
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REFERENCES

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Operation of Camps

2. [] there were about 20 camps containing about 20,000 slave laborers. All of these were logging camps, and the prisoners in them were engaged in the same work as were we PW's, i.e. felling trees; clearing land of stumps for cultivation of the land, stripping bark; loading logs on trucks, etc. The administration of the entire camp complex was in the hands of a Soviet army colonel [] the part of the camp complex [] consisting of about five camps, was under the direction of a Captain AKHAPKIN. These camps and their numerical designations are as follows:

Camp 101-1, PW's []
 Camp 101-3, Slave laborers
 Camp 101-4, PW's
 Camp 101-5, Slave laborers
 Camp --- PW's (This camp had no numerical designation [] simply the "Gorelniki camp", Gorelniki possibly being a location.) []

Prisoners

3. Most of the prisoners in the slave labor camps were criminals who had been sentenced to terms ranging from a few months to as long as 15 years. However, about 10 per cent of the prisoners were of three other groups: political prisoners, deported Letts, and dishonorably discharged Soviet army personnel. The political prisoners had been convicted on primarily two counts: either defeatism, that is, pessimism regarding the outcome of the war with Germany, or collaboration with German military forces. The Letts were principally members of the intelligentsia (doctors, politicians, teachers, merchants, etc.) who had been deported from their homes in 1941 when Latvia was occupied by the USSR. Former Soviet army personnel did not fall into any definite class, as both officers and enlisted men were in the camps for various reasons. For example, one soldier had been arrested for having sold a car and large quantities of army food for personal profit. Another army prisoner was an officer who, when slightly drunk, had entered a movie theater, and upon finding all the seats occupied drew his pistol and threatened to kill the usher (a girl) if she did not seat him immediately. She complied, but called the police, who arrested the drunken officer. Women composed possibly as large a fraction as one quarter of the prisoners in the labor camps.

Living Conditions

4. Living conditions in both the labor and the PW camps improved greatly in Camp 101. [] conditions had been so poor in 1941 [] that thousands of prisoners died of hunger, cold, and overwork. But despite improvements, living conditions for the slave laborers were much worse than for the PW's. Food allocations for the PW's corresponded to those of the Soviet army, but the slave laborers received much less. For example, the slave laborers received only

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two hot meals per day to our three, no tobacco whatsoever, and only half as much bread, sugar, meat, fish, and fat as the PW's. Although all contact between German PW's and the slave laborers was officially forbidden, [] the two groups were thrown together constantly in their logging operations. Slave laborers who were experienced in logging work occasionally supervised the work of teams of Germans. Some slave laborers were actually quartered in Camp 101-1 (also a logging camp, and located about 16 kilometers from camp 101), but they were separated from the PW's. All the camps were surrounded by barbed wire fences which were constantly patrolled.

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Additional Political Prisoners

5. As prisoners of war were beginning to be released for return to Germany in 1946, new groups of political prisoners arrived, principally from the Ukraine. They had been sentenced for collaborating with German occupation forces before they were driven from the USSR.

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Location

1. [redacted] PW camp 101 in Kirovskaya Oblast about 300 kilometers north of Kirov [58° 35' N - 49° 40' E] in May 1943. There were a number of slave labor camps in the immediate vicinity, but it is impossible to pinpoint their locations because they were moved from place to place as the prisoners were assigned en masse to logging operations on different plots of land. [redacted] names of two towns in this vicinity - Lesnaya and Kajgorod, [redacted] and [redacted] both were little more than settlements. [redacted] the camps were located within a triangle formed by Loyno, Kornilovskiy, and Kay (center of triangle - 59° 50' N - 52° 40' E) on WAC 155, a region which lies about 225 kilometers from Kirov on a bearing of 50 degrees from true north.

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